



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/805,808	03/13/2001	Reiner Kraft	ARC920000147US1	6210

2512 7590 01/09/2004

PERMAN & GREEN
425 POST ROAD
FAIRFIELD, CT 06824

EXAMINER

THAI, HANH B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2171

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/805,808

Applicant(s)

KRAFT ET AL.

Examiner

Hanh B Thai

Art Unit

2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2003.

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.

2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, claim 10, it is confusing that owner of an online id input credibility information associated with itself and for validation by whom.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed December 8, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant states on pages 13-14, "Lang does not disclose or suggest being able to determine an online ID associated with at least one author of the document" and "Sharnoff also does not disclose or suggest a credibility rating". Examiner respectfully disagrees. Lang teaches in col. 4, line 61 through col. 5, line 12 and col. 6, line 38 through col. 7, line 25, the following:

"The filter structure also implements adaptive credibility filtering, providing member clients with a measure of informon credibility, as judged by other member clients in the community. For example, a new member client in a first community, having no credibility, can inject an informon into the data flow, thereby providing other member clients in other communities with the proposed informon, based on the respective community profile and member client profiles. If the other member clients believe the content of the informon to be credible, the adaptive credibility profile will reflect a growing credibility. Conversely, feedback profiles from informon recipients that indicate a lack of credibility cause the adaptive credibility profile, for the

Art Unit: 2171

informon author, to reflect untrustworthiness. However, the growth and declination of credibility are not "purely democratic," in the sense that one's credibility is susceptible to the bias of others' perceptions, so the growth or declination of one's credibility is generally proportional to how the credibility of the new member client is viewed by other member clients.

FIG. 1 illustrates one embodiment of an information filtering apparatus 1 according to the invention herein. ...

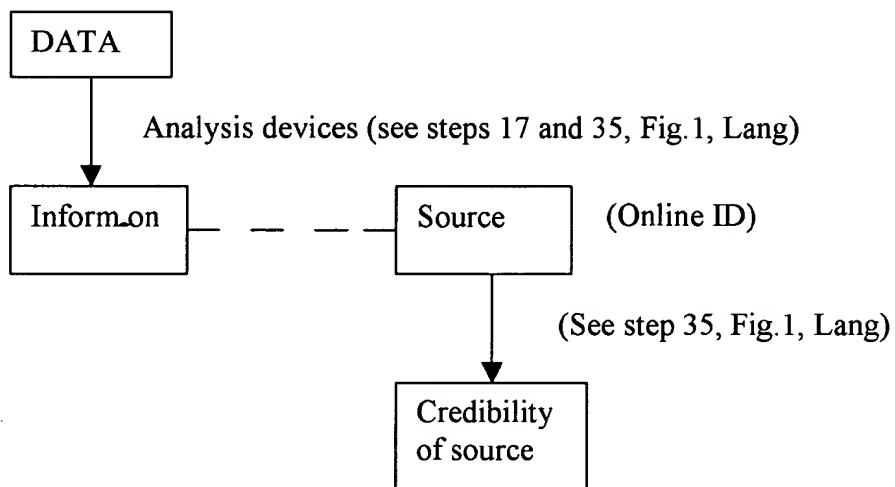
Extraction means 17 can be coupled with, and receives data stream 15 from, network 3. **Extraction means 17 can identify and extract raw informons 19 from data stream 15. Each of the raw informons 19 has an information content.** Extraction means 17 uses an adaptive content filter, and at least part of the adaptive content profile, to analyze the data stream for the presence of raw informons. Raw informons are those data entities whose content identifies them as being "in the ballpark," or of potential interest to a community coupled to apparatus 1. Extraction means 17 can remove duplicate informons, even if the informons arrive from different sources, so that user resources are not wasted by handling and viewing repetitive and cumulative information. Extraction means 17 also can use at least part of a community profile and the user profile for User #1 (5) to determine whether the informon content is relevant to the community of which User #1 is a part.

Filter means 21 adaptively filters raw informons 19 and produces proposed informons 23 which are conveyed to User #1 (5) by communication means 25. A proposed informon is a selected raw informon that, based upon the respective member client and community profiles, is predicted to be of particular interest to a member client of User 5. Filter means 21 can include a plurality of community filters 27a,b and a plurality of member client filters 28a-e, each respectively having community and member client profiles. When raw informons 19 are filtered by filter means 21, those informons that are predicted to be suitable for a particular member client of a particular community, e.g., User #1 (5), responsive to the respective community and member client profiles, are conveyed thereto. Where such is desired, filter means 21 also can include a credibility filter which enables **means 21 to perform credibility filtering of raw informons 19 according to a credibility profile."**

Lang clearly teaches that, from the above, the informon correspond to the document of the sources that is extracted from the resources on the distributed network, and then the sources are performed the credibility. Therefore, the sources have to have the online ID in order to be

Art Unit: 2171

extracted and these online ID associated with at least one author of the document (or author of informon "informon author").



Furthermore, Sharnoff teaches the limitation of "the online ID that is associated with the document" (see col. 6, line 48-62, Sharnoff).

Therefore, Lang and Sharnoff combination clearly teach the claimed limitation of credibility of the document for an online ID associated with at least one author of the document.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang et al. (U.S. Patent no. 6,314,420) in view of Sharnoff et al. (U. S. Patent no. 6,314,421).

1. Regarding claims 1, 14, 20 and 22 Lang discloses a system for associating a credibility rating with a document located in an online search comprising:

- an information gathering device (16, Fir.1, Lang) adapted to retrieve the document from an information source (11 and 13, Fig.1, Lang).
- an information analysis device (17 and 35, Fig.1, Lang) adapted to determine an online id associated with at least one author of the document (see col.6, line 59 to col.7, line 8 and col.12, lines 39-45, Lang); and
- a credibility rating system (400, Fig. 6, Lang) adapted to retrieve at least one credibility rating (see Fig.6 and col.14, lines 26-67, Lang)

Lang, however, does not explicitly disclose “the document associated with the online ID”. Sharnoff, on the other hand, discloses a document indexing mechanism including the step of retrieving document from the database associated with the online ID (see col.4, lines 48-57, col. 6, lines 56-58 and col. 9, lines 31-35, Sharnoff). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Land to include an online ID in order to identify and retrieve the credibility rating in the credibility database as taught by Sharnoff. The motivation of doing so would have been to ameliorate “information pollution” problems (see col. 3, lines 41-44, Sharnoff).

2. Regarding claim 2, Lang/Sharnoff combination further discloses a searchable index adapted to store an association of the credibility rating of the online id with the document, wherein the association is accessible by a search engine (see col. 11, lines 51-55, Lang).

3. Regarding claim 3, Lang/Sharnoff combination further discloses the mapping of a unique identifier associated with the document to the associated credibility rating (see col. 19, lines 9-19, Lang).
4. Regarding claim 4, Lang/Sharnoff combination does not explicitly disclose that the web page has a unique identifier comprising a uniform resource locator, but it well known in web document. “uniform resource locator” is the address of document of Lang in the “distributed network resources” (13, Fig. 1, Lang).
5. Regarding claim 5, Lang/Sharnoff combination further discloses that the online search is an Internet search and the document is retrieved from the Internet (see col. 5, lines 1-5, Sharnoff).
6. Regarding claims 6, 8 and 12, Lang/Sharnoff combination further discloses “a user interface” (5,7, 9, Fig. 1, and col. 6, line 59 to col. 7, line8), “input validator” (see col. 5, lines 1-12 and 7, lines 26-35, Lang) and “...allow a third party to access the credibility rating...” (see col. 5, lines 25-35 and col. 7, lines 46-62, Lang).
7. Regarding claims 7 and 11, Lang/Sharnoff combination further discloses “determine a weight of the statement based on a statement analysis” (see col. 8, lines 9-18 and col. 15, lines 29-64, Lang).
8. Regarding claims 9 and 13, Lang/Sharnoff combination further discloses “the credibility database adapted to allow a third party to submit a query” (see col. 5, lines 36-50, Lang).
9. Regarding claim 10, Lang discloses a credibility rating system comprising:

- a user interface adapted to allow an owner of an online id to input credibility information associated with a document into the system for validation (5,7, 9, Fig. 1, and col. 6, line 59 to col. 7, line8);
- an input validator coupled to the user interface in correct verify that the inputted credibility information is correct and to rate the inputted credibility information in the form of a credibility rating (see col. 5, lines 1-12 and 7, lines 26-35, Lang);
- An application service interface adapted to allow a third party to access the credibility rating from the credibility database (see col. Col. 5, lines 25-35 and col. 7, lines 9-62, Lang). “Community profiles” corresponds to the “credibility database”.

Lang, however, does not explicitly disclose, “the document associated with the online ID”. Turnoff, on the other hand, discloses a document indexing mechanism including the step of retrieving document from the database associated with the online ID (see col.4, lines 48-57, col. 6, lines 56-58 and col. 9, lines 31-35, Turnoff). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Land to include an online ID in order to identify and retrieve the credibility rating in the credibility database as taught by Turnoff. The motivation of doing so would have been to ameliorate “information pollution” problems (see col. 3, lines 41-44, Turnoff).

10. Regarding claim 15, Lang/Turnoff combination further discloses the step of determining an online id of a document comprises the step of extracting an author information code (see col. 6, lines 1-13, Turnoff). In order to parse, the information code would be extracted.

11. Regarding claim 16, Lang/Turnoff combination further discloses the step of developing a credibility rating for an online id, the method comprising the steps of: receiving an input from the online id related to a credibility profile for the online id (11 and 13, Fig.1, Lang); validating the input by determining a weight of the input (320,330 and 345, Fig.5, and col.15, lines 37-64, Lang); assigning the credibility rating to the online id (col.15, lines 29-32, Lang); and storing the credibility rating in a searchable index (see col.12, lines 27-32, Lang).

12. Regarding claim 17, Lang/Turnoff combination further discloses the step of integrating the credibility-rating vector into a search engine using a ranking algorithm (see col. 6, lines 23-25 and col.13, line 66 to col.14, line10, Lang).

13. Regarding claim 18, Lang/Turnoff combination does not explicitly disclose the step of reordering a search result list, but it is well known to rearrange the search result list because it would provide the flexibility of the searching system.

14. Regarding claim 19, Lang/Turnoff combination further discloses the step of displaying a symbol on the information indicating the quality rating to the user (see 235, Fig.4 and col.11, line 64 to col.12, line 5, Lang).

15. Regarding claims 24-26, Lang/Turnoff combination further discloses “credibility rating that corresponds to the subject matter of the document” (see col. 4, lines 34-40, Turnoff).

16. Regarding claim 27, Lang/Turnoff combination further discloses that the information gathering device and the information analysis device are located in separate domains (see Fi.1 of Lang).

17. Regarding claim 28, Lang/Turnoff combination further discloses the credibility rating is a rating of at least one author associated with the document (see col. 4, line 61 to col. 5, line 12 and col. 6, line 38 to col. 7, line 25, Lang).

18. Regarding claim 29, Lang/Turnoff combination further discloses the credibility rating database holds credibility ratings for an online ID that are categorized by subject matter (see col.3, line 49-55, Lang).

19. Regarding claim 30, Lang/Turnoff combination further discloses the at least one credibility rating comprises a credibility information vector based on a combination of credibility ratings in at least one subject domain associated with the online ID (see col. 6, line 24-26, Lang).

20. Regarding claim 31, Lang/Turnoff combination further discloses that the weight of the input is determined by a date input, a domain of the content, a time duration associated with the input and an action associated with the input (see col. 4, line 5-29, Lang).

Conclusion

21. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

Art Unit: 2171


CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

22. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hahn B Thai whose telephone number is 703-305-4883. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safety Methodic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Hanh Thai HT
Art Unit 2171
January 6, 2004


UYEN LE
AU 2171